CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method of computing a model, comprising:

2   comparing attribute values for samples having a desired

3   attribute to attribute values for all samples; and

4   selecting a subset of available attributes based on a

5   difference between attribute values for the samples having

6   the desired attribute and attribute values for all of the

7   samples.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of comparing

2   attribute values for samples having a desired attribute to

3   attribute values for all samples further comprises:

4   determining a statistical measure of difference between

5   the attribute values for samples having the desired

6   attribute and the attribute values for all of the samples.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining

2   a statistical measure of difference between the attribute

3   values for samples having the desired attribute and the

4   attribute values for all of the samples further comprises:

5   determining an entropy for the attribute values.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a

2   subset of available attributes based on a difference between

3   attribute values for the samples having the desired

4   attribute and attribute values for all of the samples

5   further comprises:

6   identifying n attributes having a largest difference in

7   attribute values.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subset of available attributes based on a difference between attribute values for the samples having the desired attribute and attribute values for all of the samples further comprises:

identifying a predetermined percentage of attributes having a larger difference in the attribute values than remaining attributes.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subset of available attributes based on a difference between attribute values for the samples having the desired attribute and attribute values for all of the samples further comprises:

identifying attributes having a difference in the attribute values exceeding a predetermined amount.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

obtaining a plurality of samples, each sample having values for a plurality of attributes.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

employing the selected subset of attributes to generate a predictive model.

1   9.   A method of computing a model, comprising:

2   obtaining a plurality of samples each having values for

3   a plurality of attributes;

4   comparing attribute values for samples having at least

5   one desired attribute to attribute values for all of the

6   plurality of samples;

7   selecting attributes having a largest difference

8   between attribute values for samples having the at least one

9   desired attribute and attribute values for all of the

10   plurality of samples; and

11   computing a model employing the selected attributes.

     10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of selecting

     attributes having a largest difference between attribute

     values for samples having the at least one desired attribute

     and attribute values for all of the plurality of samples

     further comprises:

          identifying a predetermined number of attributes having

     the largest difference in attribute values.

     11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of selecting

     attributes having a largest difference between attribute

     values for samples having the at least one desired attribute

4   and attribute values for all of the plurality of samples

5   further comprises:

6   identifying a predetermined percentage of attributes

7   having the relative difference in attribute values.

1   12. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of selecting

2   attributes having a largest difference between attribute

3   values for samples having the at least one desired attribute

4   and attribute values for all of the plurality of samples

5   further comprises:
6   identifying attributes having a difference in attribute
7   values equal to or greater than a predetermined amount.

1   13. A method of selecting attributes for computing a model,
2   comprising:
3   for a plurality of samples each having values for a
4   plurality of attributes:
5   for each of the plurality of attributes:
6   comparing the attribute values for a first
7   group of samples to the attribute values for all
8   of the plurality of samples; and
9   determining a difference between the
10   attribute values for the first groups and the
11   attribute values for all of the plurality of
12   samples; and
13   identifying attributes within the plurality of
14   attributes having a largest difference between the
15   attribute values for the first groups and the attribute
16   values for all of the plurality of samples; and
17   selecting at least some of the identified attributes.

14. A system for selecting attributes for computing a
model, comprising:

a memory containing data for a plurality of samples
each having values for a plurality of attributes; and

a processor coupled to the memory and executing a
selection process including:

comparing attribute values for samples having a
desired attribute to attribute values for all samples;

selecting a subset of available attributes based
on a difference between attribute values for the
samples having the desired attribute and attribute
values for all of the samples; and

employing the selected subset of attributes to generate
a predictive model.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process
determines a statistical measure of difference between the
attribute values for samples having the desired attribute
and the attribute values for all of the samples.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the selection process
determines an entropy for the attribute values.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process
identifies a predetermined number of attributes having a
largest difference in the attribute values for selection.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process
identifies a predetermined percentage of attributes having a
larger difference in the attribute values for selection.

19. The system of claim 14, wherein the selection process

2   identifies, for selection, attributes having a difference in

3   the attribute values exceeding a predetermined amount.

1   20.   A system for computing a model, comprising:

2   a memory containing data for a plurality of samples

3 each having values for a plurality of attributes; and

4   a processor coupled to the memory and executing a

5 selection process including:

6   comparing attribute values for a first subset of

7 the plurality of samples to attribute values for all of

8 the samples;

9   selecting attributes having a largest difference

10 between attribute values for the first subset and

11 attribute values for all of the samples; and

12   computing a model employing the selected

13 attributes.

1   21.   A computer program product within a computer usable
2   medium for selecting attributes for computing a model,
3   comprising:
4   instructions for reading values of attributes for a
5   plurality of samples;
6   instructions for comparing attribute values for samples
7   having a desired attribute to attribute values for all
8   samples; and
9   instructions for selecting a subset of available
10 attributes based on a difference between attribute values
11 for samples having the desired attribute and attribute
12 values for all samples.

22.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the
instructions for comparing attribute values for samples
having a desired attribute to attribute values for all
samples further comprise:
      instructions for determining a statistical measure of
difference between the attribute values for samples having
the desired attribute and the attribute values for all
samples.

1   23.   The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the
2   instructions for determining a statistical measure of
3   difference between the attribute values for samples having
4   the desired attribute and the attribute values for all
5   samples further comprise:
6   instructions for determining an entropy of the
7   attribute values for samples having the desired attribute
8   and an entropy of the attribute values for all samples;
9   instructions for comparing the entropy of the attribute
10 values for samples having the desired attribute to the

entropy of the attribute values for all samples for each
attribute to determine a relative measure of difference; and
        instructions for comparing the relative measure of
difference of all attributes.

24.   The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the
instructions for selecting a subset of available attributes
based on a difference between attribute values for samples
having the desired attribute and attribute values for all
samples further comprise:
        instructions for identifying n attributes having a
largest difference in the attribute values.

1   25.   A computer program product within a computer usable

2   medium for selecting attributes for computing a model,

3   comprising:

4   instructions for comparing attribute values for a first

5   group of samples to attribute values for all samples for

6   each of a plurality of attributes;

7   instructions for determining a difference between the

8   attribute values for the first group of samples and the

9   attribute values for all of the samples; and

10   instructions for selecting a group of attributes having

11   a largest difference between the attribute values for the

12   first group of samples and the attribute values for all

13   samples.